GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1457
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
MISHAP IN SKY BUS PROJECT
Alemao Shri Churchill Braz

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of a major mishap that occurred at Margao in South Goa during trials of the Skybus project of the Konkan Railway Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of inquiry ordered into the accident, its outcome, and action against guilty officials;

(d) whether any agency exists in the country that can certify the safety and security of the project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the present status of 25 km. stretch between Panaji to Mapusa to be equipped with the Skybus project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (f) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1457 SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHIL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 09.12.2004 REGARDING MISHAP IN SKY BUS PROJECT.
(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Trial runs on the test track commenced from 25th August 2004. On a return trip, during trial runs on 25th September 2004, the Officer in-charge observed that the Sky Bus speed was not getting controlled as it was approaching the curve ahead of stopping point, and since the speed was restricted to 20 Kmph on the curve, at some distance in advance of the approach of curve, he reacted to take action to abort the experiment by pressing the emergency button. This provides for cutting off the power and application of pneumatic brakes. The officer did not immediately feel reduction of the speed but soon found the Sky Bus going into dynamic instability hitting one of the columns resulting in the said accident. During mishap, late Shri T. Babu Fitter Konkan Railway Corporation expired and two persons S/Shri Laxmi Narayan, Engineer, Kernex Microsystems India Ltd. and Ramchandra Murthy, AC Mechanic, South Western Railway were injured.

An enquiry by a Committee consisting of four Heads of the Department of Konkan Railway assisted by Prof. S.C.Lakkad, Deputy Director of Indian Institute of Technology, Powai and Austrian Engineer has been ordered by Managing Director, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. to go into the details of the accident. The enquiry report is expected to be finalized shortly and further action shall be taken accordingly.

(d) & (e): Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation has constituted a Committee in December 2003 under the Chairmanship of Shri E.V. Indiresan to examine the feasibility of establishing and operating sky bus metro service in Indian cities. The terms of reference of this Committee are as under:

i) To examine the techno-economic and financial feasibility of the sky bus metro system.
ii) To ascertain the safety of the system.
iii) To critically evaluate novel system component, such as suspended rail technology, traversing systems, etc.
iv) To critically evaluate the integration of different technologies.
v) Any other matter considered relevant by the Committee.

Report of this Committee is still awaited.

(f): At the behest of the Government of Goa, Konkan Railway have submitted an inception report and estimates for the 10.5 km long Mapusa to Panjim corridor to the Government of Goa, who in turn have recommended and forwarded it to the Ministry of Urban

Development and Poverty Alleviation for sanction and allocation of funds.